

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrical smoking system comprising:

a lighter comprising at least one electrical heater element and a system for electrically actuating said at least one heater element, said lighter adapted to at least partially receive a cigarette with said at least one heater element at least partially superposing a portion of the cigarette,

at least a portion of said at least one heater element being magnetic, and

said lighter further including an electromagnet arranged in proximity to said magnetic portion of said at least one heater element, said electromagnet being actuable to selectively repulse or attract said heater element.

2. The electrical smoking system according to claim 1, wherein:

said magnetic portion of said at least one heater element comprises a permanent magnet attached near a distal end of said at least one heater element.

3. The electrical smoking system according to claim 2, wherein:

like poles of said permanent magnet and said electromagnet are positioned facing each other such that actuation of said electromagnet generates a repulsive force between said electromagnet and said at least one heater element.

4. The electrical smoking system according to claim 3, wherein:

repulsion of said at least one heater element by actuation of said electromagnet moves said at least one heater element into close contact with a cigarette positioned in said lighter.

5. The electrical smoking system according to claim 4, wherein:
said electromagnet is actuated in response to a signal generated by positioning of a cigarette within said lighter.

6. The electrical smoking system according to claim 4, wherein:
said electromagnet is actuated in response to a signal generated by a smoker puffing on a cigarette positioned within said lighter.

7. The electrical smoking system according to claim 1, wherein:
said lighter comprises a plurality of said at least one electrical heater element adapted to superpose a portion of the cigarette in circumferentially spaced relation, and wherein
said at least a portion of each of said electrical heater elements comprises a permanent magnet attached near a distal end of each of said electrical heater elements.

8. The electrical smoking system according to claim 7, wherein:

like poles of said permanent magnets and said electromagnet are positioned facing each other such that actuation of said electromagnet generates a repulsive force between said electromagnet and said heater elements.

9. The electrical smoking system according to claim 8, wherein:
repulsion of said heater elements by actuation of said electromagnet moves said heater elements into close contact with a cigarette positioned in said lighter.

10. The electrical smoking system according to claim 9, wherein:
said electromagnet is actuated in response to a signal generated by positioning of a cigarette within said lighter.

11. The electrical smoking system according to claim 9, wherein:
said electromagnet is actuated in response to a signal generated by a puff detector.

12. A method of operating an electrical smoking system including a lighter having an electrical heating element, a system for electrically actuating said heating element, said heating element having a least a portion that is magnetized and an electromagnet being arranged in proximity to said magnetic portion of said heating element, said method comprising:

inserting a cigarette into said lighter to a position wherein said heating element at least partially superposes a portion of the cigarette,
detecting the position of the cigarette,
generating a signal based upon the detection of the cigarette position,
actuating said electromagnet to generate an electromagnetic repulsive force against said magnetized portion of said heating element in response to said signal.

13. The method according to claim 12, further including:
monitoring the number of puffs taken on the cigarette after actuation of said electromagnet, and
deactivating said electromagnet to remove said repulsive force after a predetermined number of puffs have been monitored.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said repulsive force pushes said heating element into close contact with said portion of the cigarette.

15. The method according to claim 12, further including:
detecting a puff taken on the cigarette, and
deactivating said electromagnet to remove said repulsive force after said puff is no longer detected.

16. A method of operating an electrical smoking system including a lighter having an electrical heating element, a system for electrically actuating said heating element, said heating element having at least a portion that is magnetized and an electromagnet being arranged in proximity to said magnetic portion of said heating element, said method comprising:

inserting a cigarette into said lighter to a position wherein said heating element at least partially superposes a portion of the cigarette,
detecting a puff taken on said cigarette,
generating a signal based upon the puff detection, and
actuating said electromagnet to generate an electromagnetic repulsive force against said magnetized portion of said heating element in response to said signal.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said repulsive force pushes said heating element into close contact with said portion of said cigarette.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein a plurality of said heating elements are arranged in circumferentially spaced relation around said portion of said cigarette and said electromagnet extends around the entire circumference of said cigarette such that said repulsive force pushes all of said heating elements into close contact with said portion of said cigarette.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein said heating element is pre-biased to a position wherein said heating element is positioned out of the path of said cigarette being inserted into said lighter.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein said heating elements are pre-biased to positions wherein said heating elements are positioned out of the path of said cigarette being inserted into said lighter.